

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02

ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 117436

R 0161448Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9749

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO: RUFTRRA/USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CHMAAG BENELUX

CHMAAG NETHERLANDS

COMMERCE DEPT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104

REF: A. BRUSSELS 7280; B. THE HAGUE C. NATO 0021

1. AS STATE AND DOD ARE AWARE, THE FRG WILL REPLACE
ITS F-104'S WITH THE F-4F WHICH ARE NOW BEGINNING TO
BE DELIVERED AND HAS NO PLANS TO PURCHASE THE COBRA,
LANCER OR THE GENERAL DYNAMICS 402. FOR THIS REASON,
WE HAVE FOUND FRG OFFICIALS RELUCTANT OR UNINTERESTED
IN DISCUSSING CHANCES OF AN EVENTUAL PURCHASE OF A US
FIGHTER. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE
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COSTS OF THE MRCA WILL RISE SO STEEPLY OR THAT THE

AIRCRAFT'S DEVELOPMENT WILL ENCOUNTER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OF SUFFICIENT SERIOUSNESS AS TO FORCE THE FRG TO REDUCE ITS PLANNED MRCA PURCHASES. THIS IN TURN COULD LEAD TO A DECISION TO PURCHASE AN AIR SUPERIORITY FIGHTER AND OPEN POSSIBILITIES OF A BUY IN THE US. THIS IS, OF COURSE, AN ADDITIONAL REASON WHY THE USG SHOULD PREPARE A PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC COMPENSATION SUFFICIENT TO OFFSET FRENCH EFFORTS TO SELL THE MIRAGE.

2. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US INDUSTRY REPS AND MOD OFFICIALS AND WE FIND FRG DEFENSE OFFICIALS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE COST AND TECHNICAL ADVANTAGES TO EUROPEAN

GOVERNMENTS IF A US FIGHTER IS SELECTED OVER THE FRENCH MIRAGE. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THESE POINTS IN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE MOD AND IN ADDITION STRESS THAT EUROPEANS WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY US FIGHTER PURCHASES FOR OFFSET PURPOSES. HOPEFULLY THE GERMANS WILL POINT OUT THESE ADVANTAGES TO THE DUTCH, BELGIANS AND NORWEGIANS; SUCH A STEP WOULD BE USEFUL IN PERSUADING THE EUROPEANS TO OPT FOR AN AMERICAN FIGHTER.

HILLENBRAND

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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